

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): An image processing apparatus comprising:

an image reception section which receives CT image data consisting of bitmap data representing a continuous gradation image and LW image data consisting of bitmap data representing a line drawing, in which the line drawing includes line, character, and graphics drawings;

a gradation correction section which performs gradation correction processing so as to correct the CT image data and the LW image data received by the image reception section, independently of each other;

an image synthesizing section which synthesizes the CT image data and the LW image data corrected by the gradation correction section, whereby generating image data representing an image including both a continuous gradation image region and a line drawing region; and

an image transmission section which sends the image data generated by the image synthesizing section to a printer.

2. (original): An image processing apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the gradation correction section comprises a correction lookup table for CT image and a correction lookup table for LW image, each of which describes association of data before correction and data after correction, and wherein the gradation correction section subjects

the CT image data received by the image reception section to the gradation correction processing and subjects the LW image data received by the image reception section to the gradation correction processing, by referring to the correction lookup table for CT image and the correction lookup table for LW image respectively, whereby generating the corrected CT image data and the corrected LW image data.

3. (original): An image processing apparatus according to claim 2,

wherein the gradation correction section adds a random number to data obtained by referring to the correction lookup table for CT image, to thereby generate CT image data after correction with respect to the CT image data received by the image reception section, and also adds a random number to data obtained by referring to the correction lookup table for LW image, to thereby generate LW image data after correction with respect to the LW image data received by the image reception section.

4. (original): An image processing program storage medium storing an image processing program which is executed in an information processing apparatus executing a program and causes the information processing apparatus to operate as an image processing apparatus, the image processing apparatus comprising:

an image reception section which receives CT image data consisting of bitmap data representing a continuous gradation image and LW image data consisting of bitmap data representing a line drawing, in which the line drawing includes line, character, and graphics drawings;

a gradation correction section which performs gradation correction processing so as to correct the CT image data and the LW image data received by the image reception section, independently of each other;

an image synthesizing section which synthesizes the CT image data and the LW image data corrected by the gradation correction section, whereby generating image data representing an image including both a continuous gradation image region and a line drawing region; and

an image transmission section which sends the image data generated by the image synthesizing section to a printer.

5. (original): An image processing program storage medium according to claim 4, wherein the gradation correction section comprises a correction lookup table for CT image and a correction lookup table for LW image, each of which describes association of data before correction and data after correction, and wherein the gradation correction section subjects the CT image data received by the image reception section to the gradation correction processing and subjects the LW image data received by the image reception section to the gradation correction processing, by referring to the correction lookup table for CT image and the correction lookup table for LW image respectively, whereby generating the corrected CT image data and the corrected LW image data.

6. (original): An image processing program storage medium storing an image processing program according to claim 5,

wherein the gradation correction section adds a random number to data obtained by referring to the correction lookup table for CT image, to thereby generate CT image data after correction with respect to the CT image data received by the image reception section, and also adds a random number to data obtained by referring to the correction lookup table for LW image, to thereby generate LW image data after correction with respect to the LW image data received by the image reception section.

7. (previously presented): An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the gradation correction section comprises a correction lookup table for CT image and subjects the CT image data received by the image reception section to the gradation correction processing by referring to the correction lookup table for CT image, whereby generating the corrected CT image data.

8. (previously presented): An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the gradation correction section comprises a correction lookup table for LW image and subjects the LW image data received by the image reception section to the gradation correction processing by referring to the correction lookup table for LW image, whereby generating the corrected LW image data.

9 (previously presented): An image processing apparatus according to claim 2,

wherein the gradation correction section adds a random number to data obtained by referring to the correction lookup table for CT image, to thereby generate CT image data after correction with respect to the CT image data received by the image reception section.

10. (previously presented): An image processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the gradation section adds a random number to data obtained by referring to the correction lookup table for LW image, to thereby generate LW image data after correction with respect to the LW image data received by the image reception section.

11. (currently amended): An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprises
a CT gradation correction processing circuit for processing the continuous gradation image ~~is processed~~.

12. (previously presented): An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprises
an LW gradation correction processing circuit for processing the line drawings in which the line, the character and the graphics drawings are processed together.

13. (previously presented): An image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the CT image data represents an image in a region of the continuation gradation image.

14. (previously presented): An image processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the LW image data represents an image in a region of the line drawings.